

A 2 Saturday, February 3, 1962 THE WASHINGTON POST

Prober Says Wieland Was Duped

Associated Press

Sen. Olin D. Johnston D-S.C.) said yesterday he is convinced William A. Wieland, a career foreign service officer, was "hoodwinked" into believing Cuban dictator Fidel Castro was not a Communist.

Johnston made the statement after he presided over a Senate Internal Security Subcommittee hearing at which Wieland was questioned behind closed doors for about 3½ hours. The hearing was not announced in advance.

Wieland, defended by President Kennedy last week against a newspaperwoman's description of him as a "security risk," declined comment before and after his session with the subcommittee.

Johnston said the Subcommittee questioned Wieland about his present State Department job to find out whether it is a sensitive position. The Senator declined to characterize it but said the State Department does not consider it sensitive.

Johnston's comments were made to newsmen after he first had declined to draw any

conclusions about the testimony or to say whether he agreed with Mr. Kennedy that Wieland can carry on his present duties without detriment to the Nation's security.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1962.

President Defends 2 Aides; Assails Question of Loyalty

Angry Kennedy Rebukes a Reporter at News Conference and Calls on Her to Back Up 'Very Strong Term'

By ANTHONY LEWIS

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 — President Kennedy vigorously defended two State Department employees today against a newspaper woman's statement that they were security risks.

He delivered an icy rebuke to the reporter, Mrs. Sarah McClendon, when she made the accusation at his news conference. He vouched personally for the two men and said he hoped they could continue to serve "without detriment to their character by your question." (Question 15, Page 12.)

It was an extraordinary episode for a news conference. Mr. Kennedy had never during his Presidency been so quick and severe in reproving a reporter.

His tone and his gestures made clear his disapproval of the re-

porter's statement. He interrupted quickly, his finger pointing at her, to demand substantiation.

Mrs. McClendon, who represents fourteen Texas and New England newspapers here, began with this declaratory statement:

"Mr. President, sir, two well-known security risks have recently been put on a task force in the State Department to help reorganize the Office of Security."

Mr. Kennedy cut in coldly to ask: "Well, now, who?"

The reporter gave the names of William Arthur Wieland and J. Clayton Miller. The State Department later said that both

held jobs connected with ad-